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SKIP

• January 1996

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet

**Internet Phone
Clipper Update
Sunspots & HF**



Snapshots

FCC book on Internet

The FCC Interference Handbook now is available on the Internet. The 22 page booklet, available from the Compliance and Information Bureau via the FCC World Wide Web home page, includes the same information and illustrations contained in the recently published Interference to Home Electronic Entertainment Equipment Handbook. It includes information about equipment installation, identifying interference sources, curing interference problems, and filters. It also contains a list of home electronic equipment manufacturers and telephone numbers. Pictures illustrate different TV interference problems, including ham or CB transmitter interference. The Interference Handbook is available on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Compliance/WWW/tvibook.html>.

W2AN special event

W2AN will be on the air as a special event station on Saturday, December 2, and Saturday, December 9, from 7 PM EST to midnight. The transmitter, restored by the Antique Wireless Association, was used for transatlantic contacts in 1921. Listen for its bell-like tone on or near 1815 kHz. QSL via AWA, 59 Main St, Bloomfield, NY 14469.

-ARRL

Antenna/System Design

Workshop at Miami Hamboree

Improve your antenna system by signing up for the ARRL workshop "Computer Aided Antenna/System Design of HF/VHF Stations" at the Miami Airport Marriott on Friday, February 2, in conjunction with the Miami Hamboree. The five-hour session will be conducted by ARRL Senior Assistant Technical Editor Dean Straw, N6BV, and includes a workbook. The fee is \$15 for ARRL members and \$20 for non-members. To register or get details, call Educational Activities Department Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, at 860-594-0237. Space is limited, so please call by January 24.

CW practice for Alaskans

A new code practice station is on the air from Alaska. Sponsored by the South Central Radio Club, of Anchorage, and signing KL7CC, the station is on daily on 80 and 2 meters.

Each session runs about 40 minutes, daily, at 7 AM, 10 AM, 4 PM, 7 PM, and 10 PM, Alaska time, on 3.575 and 145.35 MHz. (Alaska is 8 hours behind UTC until October 29, then 9 hours behind). About 10 minutes of text are sent at 22, 15, and 7 wpm. The slower two speeds are sent by the Farnsworth method; 22 wpm is non-Farnsworth (W1AW uses Farnsworth up to 15 wpm, and non-Farnsworth at 18 wpm and higher speeds).

The club is currently using the home station of Jim Wiley, KL7CC, running about 100 watts on both 80 and 2 meters. Sometime in the future, power on 80 meters will be increased to 400 watts output, and the station eventually will be installed at the club's facility, and will then sign WL7CLY. The Quarter Century Wireless Association donated 300 dollar(s) to the project, according to Wiley.

Text for the station is primarily from the pages of QST, and is being provided by ARRL staff from text files used for the same purpose at W1AW.

The club wants reception reports. Send them to Jim Wiley, KL7CC, 8023 East 11th Court, Anchorage, Alaska 99504.

-ARRL

SKIP ON TAPE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

SKIP is put on tape every month for the benefit of the blind or visually impaired. These tapes are available if requested and postage is paid both ways. If you are interested in this valuable service, contact Ms. Desaree Stewart, Library for the Blind, 420 Platt Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Phone 1-800-226-6075.

Ham Radio & More via Dish

If you have a satellite dish you can tune into Len Winkler, KB7LPW and his "Ham Radio and More" live talk and call in show. The show is on the Talk America Network (Audio) broadcast on Spacenet 3, transponder 9 (audio frequency 6.80, wideband mono) - Sunday evening from 6 to 7PM.

The toll-free call in number is 1-800-298-TALK.

ARRL New Web Page

ARRL's World Wide Web page (<http://www.arrl.org/>) sports a new advertising section, including the latest QST "Ham-Ads," links to QST advertisers, advertising rates, and more. The Web page is updated regularly so check it often!

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

W4FWZ - John Hollister, Jr, Jacksonville

W4ASF - P.J. Wilbanks, Ocala

KR4R - Hal Price, Satellite Beach

N4SBP - Leslie Peterson, Hollywood

W1ALB - Raymond Legro, Sarasota

WA2CUJ - Irwin C. Cohen, Jupiter

WB2EID - Lindus L. Caulum, Zephyrhills

WB2WHI - Elizabeth Widmann, Crawfordville

KC4QS - Truman Sims, Clearwater

WA4TDD - Geraldine R. Grantges, Belleair

KE4TIC - Kenneth Schweikert, Stuart

WB4YGI - Robert N. Olson, Milton

W8LSF - Robert J. Kolb, Jupiter

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From the Editor

Alas, we find ourselves about to welcome another new year. How time flies! The Florida Skip has travelled a long road since it was first published in 1957, basically starting as a newsletter to coordinate information between ECs throughout the State of Florida. Soon it grew into a publication that provided some cohesion between fragmented Florida amateur radio organizations by providing information on club, net and MARS activities.

As Florida Skip grew, the world shrank. As we embark on 1996, the world is shrinking at warp speed as technology is trying to outrun us. One can pick up the internet phone and talk nearly everywhere in the planet at the click of the mouse. The Skip is now read in 30 states and 5 foreign countries. Of course I'm not implying that we have staggering out-of-state and country circulation figures but - we have definitely grown out of our knick-ers.

Twenty years ago, how many hams thought that a computer would establish an abiding presence in the ham shack? I'm sure there are many who still resist; but that mindset is becoming a liability rather than an asset if one is to access the wealth of information available to everybody (including hams), throughout the world.

Communication still includes transmitters and receivers but not to the exclusion of modems, satellites, optics, computers and whatever in heck will come on the scene tomorrow.

Florida Skip is about amateur and emergency communications and communications has grown to include a multitude of modes. The Skip endeavors to keep its readers in touch with the rapidly expanding world of communications.

With the increasing reliance and/or dependence on digital communications comes significant and disturbing problems - the technical ability to gain access to private communications and records, the technical ability to prevent access and the propensity of the government wanting to regulate the right of intrusion and the degree of exclusion. These privacy issues have become a matter of intense concern to people concerned with their constitutional right to privacy.

With the arrival of the New Year, you will see a new "look" for the magazine. Although it is mostly cosmetic, one will note there will be more articles about computers, the internet, privacy issues and an assortment of communications-related topics. There will be no less attention paid to net reports, statistics, clubs or any of the topics and issues that command the interest of a large portion of our subscribers.

I thank all of you for your support and I intend to continue my efforts to provide a comprehensive magazine that provides something of interest for all. My most sincere wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

ger//



SKIP

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Florida Phone Nets

Larry McDermott, KE4ESV

From Bob, KC4ZHF SFTN

Asst, Net Mgr.: Statistics for November: Stations 1084. Traffic 361. Time 1736 minutes during 30 sessions. 97th consecutive month with over 1000 stations checking into the Net.

Honor roll for November: KF4CBF, KD4HGU, KS4JK, KD4JMV, KE4RSN, WA9VND, KB4WBY and KA2YZM. Congratulations and thanks for your loyalty.

Our semi-annual picnic was held, just prior to this writing, with a good turnout and perfect weather. We grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages with all the trimmings. It included a huge cake brought by Laura, WA9VND. Entertainment was provided by Jim, KD4GR and his five year old granddaughter, Nikki, who accompanied Jim with her home made guitar. KE4RSN brought his daughter, Jennifer, who played Christmas Carols on a Casio keyboard. Awards were presented to Net Control Stations, Net Reps., honor roll, and those with other achievements during the past six months. The "50's" Club award went to Rich, KA2ZYM, for originating more than 50 messages during the current year. Rich has originated more than 100 to date. It was great to see some of the people we have not seen in a while and good to meet some of the newer members of the Net. A good time was had by all.

Our 1000th checkin for November was Larry, N4YWN, on the 28th. NCS was KC4ZHF. Congrats Larry. A Certificate by Laura is in the mail.

Join us daily at 6 p.m. local time on 146.19/79 MHz. Don't forget "Traffic Tips" every Tuesday evening at 6:30. 73/88 de Bob - KC4ZHF, Asst. Net Mgr.

From Larry, KE4ESV FAST Net Manager: Hello again everyone. On behalf of the FAST net and its members, welcome to the December issue of Florida Skip. It is with a sigh of relief that we bid farewell to the 1995 storm season, and I can't think of many folks who are sorry to see it go after all the mischief and damage it wrought. While we always breath a little easier this time of year, we should always be mindful that we live in an area where severe and inclem-

ent weather is always a possibility. We make it a point to maintain proficiency as radio operators just in case the need for our abilities should arise.

It is always pleasant when operators bring traffic through our net but perhaps it is even more appealing when there is an increase in the number of operators who frequently check in our net. As my grandmother preached, many hands make for light (and probably more pleasant) work and the increase of frequent checkins to the SFAST net has made the net more efficient and enjoyable than ever. Please continue to keep up the excellent work as we continue to move through the holiday season and into the peak of the visitor season.

Delbert, WD4HHH and Eunice W1UKR told me a short while ago of a rather nice tradition that the SFAST net has employed in the past and perhaps we could put it to good use again. The idea of a "guest" net control station certainly offers the opportunity for members of the net to gain experience that they might not otherwise obtain and it can apply to net liaison stations as well. Why not ask to give either a try. Neither is difficult and it does provide a sense of satisfaction having mastered yet another skill to employ in the service and enjoyment of amateur radio.

Speaking of skills, there are times when a radio operator must be both an ambassador and a diplomat of the highest order in dealing with the sometimes unruly and rude characters with whom we share the bands. Please continue to use the good judgement and diplomacy that you have all exhibited when faced with adversity in running the net. Perhaps all of us can find a way to gently remind people that one of amateur radio's primary reasons for being is that of providing emergency communications. By operating the traffic net daily, it will be ready for immediate use if needed. Can you imagine the chaos that would result if there were no established traffic and training nets on which to rely? Fortunately, because of your efforts, we don't have to worry. A tip of the hat to you all!

We of the SFAST sincerely hope that you will continue to enjoy the remaining holidays and make it a point to check in with us as often as you can. We meet daily on or about 3940 kHz, at 6 PM and 10:30 PM eastern time. All are welcome with or without traffic. We hope to hear you join us. Until then, on behalf of the SFAST net and its members - 73/88 from Larry, KE4ESV.

From Russ, FMTN Net Manager: By the time you get to read this, the holidays will have come and gone with the big increase in the traffic counts but November was not a shabby as far as the Florida Midday Traffic Net is concerned. We had 586 stations check in and pass 338 pieces of traffic which is an increase over last month. We are alive and kicking and still looking for additional stations to check in especially a station from the Venice area. If you live in this area and can handle traffic, it would be wonderful if you could give us a call. There are very few stations who check into any of the nets from that part of the state so we all need you. Jim, N4HGJ from Ocala has been checking in regularly and will soon represent the Net on the 4th region get together. Nice to have you in there Jim.

Carrol, K4AJV from Crystal River is also one of our latest entries and he does go to the Region nets and brings traffic for most everyone. Great Job Carrol. Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and look forward to meeting some of you at the Miami Hamboree. We always have a good turnout there and look forward to this year's, or should I say net year's, event. Anyway 1996 will clear it up. Thank all of our stations for another good month and hope to hear more of you on the air this month. We are on every noontime on 7247.5 or somewhere in that vicinity mostly down as the band is getting very crowded and we sometime find it difficult to find a quiet place to pass our traffic. So don't be afraid to spin the dial. 73, 88 and 33 to all from Russ, KC4ZHN Net Manager.

Continued on page 8

Florida CW Nets

Ed Roller, K4IA

QFN Reported by Morton, WX4H: Good news that Don, AE4KX (ex AD4CN) is back on the air. Boy, do we need people as QFN is rather thin these days. Ed, K4IA is finally back after extensive repairs due to lightning, high wind, and wear and tear. Thanks Ed, we need you badly as Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda is a void that needs filling again.

Thanks to AB4XK, N4EC, N4XS, K4SCL, AA4HT, KA4FZI, WV5Z, N2WX, AE4KX, AA4BN and N4SS for their continuous service. It's busy times now with the holidays, but it will be over by the time you read this in Florida Skip. KA4FZI and AB4XK have moved from Saturday night to Sunday so N2WX can fit QFN in with his work schedule. Hope this works out well for all. AA4HT will back up N2WX when necessary.

Hopefully we will have had a lot of volunteer help on the regional nets during December, as this helps move the traffic. Please QNI as often as possible in 1996 on 3651 kHz at 7 and 10 PM. You will meet the following NCSs: Monday WV5Z, Tuesday AE4KX, Wednesday K4SCL, Thursday KA4FZI, Friday AB4XK and KA4FZI, and Saturday N2WX or AA4HT. Come and give it a try. 73, Morton.

FMSN Reported by Laura, WA9VND: The November QNI was 272, QTC 183 with QND 601. Some traffic picking up for the holidays. I'm sure everybody got their share of the turkey and now we face the reality of the biggest holiday of the year. Christmas brings many things to many people and especially traffic for us hams. I send my wish to everyone to have a wonderful blessed Christmas with all the trimmings and a healthy New Year.

If you have holiday traffic, share it with us on FMSN 5:30 every day on 3651 kHz. Again Happy Holidays from the FMSN family. See you next year - 1996. 73, Laura

Gator Reported by Dan, W4DL: Al, W3VR has to go to work, Mae has a bad left leg and is seeing the doctor. Bad news, no fruit cakes this year. George, K4JI was visited by a mean lightning strike and had to borrow an antenna tuner to get back

on the net. Dan, W4DL is starting a vacation January 1, 1996, keeping a promise made to XYL ten years ago. Chris, N4EKC has joined the Gator weather bureau with a local weather sequence. Dick, N2AOX says that he expects to get his rig going before Christmas. He has received no word from Atlanta but is continuing his exercises. Charlie, WA4EYU is looking for a batter powered scooter for his XYL because moving around with hip and knee transplants is tough. JB, W4VQQ and Bill, WT4F are steady QNIs on Gator and we meet them on QFN, glad to hear them. Andy, W4IYT, President of the local QCWA is throwing a Christmas party for the chapter in between videos.

QFNS Reported by Gary, KE4DNO: A special welcome this month to those of you who are newcomers to amateur radio and who are interested in improving your CW skills. A traffic net is an ideal way to do that while still having fun and providing a useful public service all at the same time.

QFNS, the All Florida Slow Speed Traffic Net, needs and welcomes you, especially if you're a novice or tech plus operator with a developing interest in handling traffic in the CW mode.

Please join us on QFNS daily at 8 PM on 3715 kHz. To those of you who have been monitoring QFNS but haven't checked in yet, go ahead and take the plunge. You'll be glad you did!

As a training net, we specialize in meeting the needs and building the skills of those new to both CW and traffic handling. All is done in a friendly, "no stress" environment that permits you to develop at your own pace.

To help you gain an understanding of and proficiency in moving traffic via CW, we offer a series of some 40-odd training messages that are available to you upon request (limited to one training message per night). Starting with training message one and working through the "course", you'll gain experience in taking actual messages whose text provide information about traffic handling techniques and procedures.

Because you're only able to take one message per night, you'll gain experience in taking traffic from different people under a wide variety of band conditions. In each case, the sending operator is there to help you learn and is glad to answer your questions. All this in, again, a "no stress" training environment that lets you set your own pace as you move through the various training messages.

Bob, KC4ZHF continues to be our leader for net participation with 28 out of a possible 29 net checkins during November. Jim, KD4GR was the first runner-up with 25 checkins. Some individuals aren't able to check into the net as often as they'd like but do try to be as regular as possible. Among those, special thanks for Harold, KE4RSN in Lauderdale Lakes and Larry, KE4ESV in Hollywood.

Out-of-state November visitors included John, KS4XN in Gulf Shores AL; Pat, K4KZS in Morris AL; Chuck, N4VQL in Raleigh NC; and Willie, AA2SV in Bricktown NJ. A pleasure to have you join us.

And, of course, a special tip of the hat in recognition to those of you who are the "regulars", the heart and soul of the net, those that make it the success it is! 73 and God bless to all. Gary, KE4DNO, QFNS Net Manager, 904-228-3488 (Lake Helen, FL).

Note from Ed: On a beautiful day in the immense park in downtown Sapporo, Japan, I was wearing a small call letter pin, and guess what -- Operator Itagaki, JA8DUU had spotted the ARRL emblem and introduced himself. His business card has the JARL emblem identical to our ARRL with the same antenna, coil and ground in the center. It was a pleasure meeting this gentleman. 73, Ed. ♦



QCWA News

Eli Nannis, K4JMH

Very few chapters are reporting for this column. Please send me your reports as other chapters would like to know that your activities are and give them ideas for chapter meetings. Our northern members should be back in Florida by now to get away from the ice and snow. Please advise me of your activities for this column. Our chapters need to share ideas for interesting meetings.

I have been writing this column for a number of years and now I want to take my pension and retire. Do I have any takers?

My thanks to Blanche Randles, W4GXZ for the following items.

Gator Chapter

At our November meeting, 41 members and guests attended. The program was a talk by Judge Steve Rushing from the Pinellas County Court System. He talked about the humorous side of being a judge. President Bill Bell, K4AVH reported on his attendance at the National Convention in Manchester NH. Other members at the convention were Wes, W4COW, Blanche, W4GXZ, Eloise and Phil Winters, K8THT. Wes advised that the national Board of Directors voted to raise the national dues to \$20.00/year and \$35.00 for two years. The nominating committee report from Chairman Fred Leedham, W1WOX was accepted. All present officers agreed to run another term. Treasurer Bill Carpenter, N4PEO gave a report and it was accepted. Reported by Bart Bridge.

Pelican Chapter #128

The September meeting of the Pelican Chapter #128 was held at Stacy's Buffet of September 20, 1995 with 18 members and guests present.

The meeting was opened at 11:45 by Vice President Aloan Pickering, KJ9N. Vice-President Pickering ask that Don Bice, W4PCO give the invocation. Treasurer Bice ask that the Pelicans remember Corby Pratt, K4WV in their prayers. Corby became a silent key on September 7, 1995 and was one of the charter members of the Pelican Chapter. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country was led by Vice President Pickering, KJ9N.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:50 AM and the Pelicans then swooped down on the buffet bar like it

was a school of bait fish. After a delicious lunch the Pelican Chapter meeting was reconvened at 12:30.

Minutes of the June 21, 1995 were read by Chapter Secretary Jay, K9BSL. The minutes were approved as read. The treasurers report was given by Treasurer Don Bice, W4PCO. He reported that the Chapter has \$1,072.31 in the bank with all bills paid.

A note of interest was that John Smith, W4ACG took Don Bice, W4PCO, Grace and W4YB, Stark Totman cruising on the Gulf of Mexico on Saturday September 16th. Don reports that Stark had a wonderful time.

Alan KJ9N suggested that the Pelicans attend the Knights of the Kilocycles net on 3910 kHz, on Sundays at 7:30 AM.

The Pelican Chapter meeting was closed at 12:55 and the Pelicans flocked upon the desert bar. Submitted by J. Frederick Strom, K9BSL.

QCWA Journal on Tape

The QCWA Journal is on Cassette Tapes for the sight impaired. The notice of this program appears in each issue of the journal but remember if you have trouble reading the printed page you have no way of knowing about the service. There is no charge for the service and if you wish, you may keep the tapes for reference. We do ask that the mailing carton be returned.

The service is greatly appreciated by those receiving it. If you know of a member who is sight impaired, please send the name and address to:

Blanche Randles, W4GXZ

6002 N. Fremont Ave.

Tampa, FL 33604

YL Members of QCWA

Perhaps you are not aware but there is a Floridora YL Net. We should like any licensed YLs to join us. We meet on Tuesday morning 9:00 AM on 3.933. This is not a traffic net, it's not a formal net, it's just a fun net. Drop in, introduce yourself and join us. We will be happy to welcome you and have you as part of our group. -Floridora YL's

QCWW Chapter #120 of QCWA

Quarter Century Wireless Women Chapter #120 of QCWA is a National Chapter. All QCWA Chapters serve members in a city or are at least

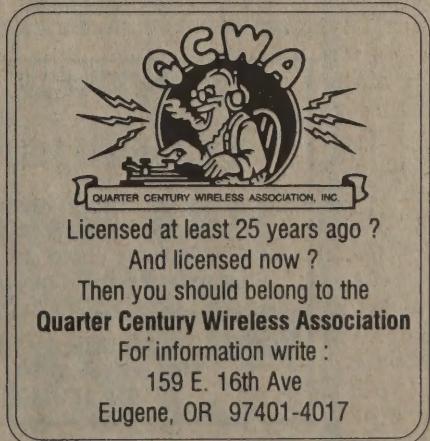
regional with the exception of QCWW Chapter. The purpose of the Chapter is to give eligible YL's a chance to have a more active part in QCWA and through the chapter to contribute to the business and activities of QCWA. QCWW accepts applications for membership from OM's as well as YL's. The annual meeting of QCWW Chapter is held each year sometime during the Annual Convention. The QCWA Net meets each Tuesday at 2:00 PM Eastern time on 14.295. There is a Newsletter "Sylver Sparks" published quarterly. If you would be interested in joining QCWW, write to the Sec/Treas Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 7336, Klamath Falls, OR 97602 or drop me a note: Blanche Randles, W4GXZ, 6002 N. Fremont Ave., Tampa, FL 33604.

New Chapter in Florida

Sun City Center is the location of a new Chapter being formed. They have already held their organizational meeting. They voted to meet 4 times a year on the Second Thursday of January, April, September and November. The name for the Chapter is still under discussion and will be decided at their first meeting. The dues will be \$5.00 payable in January.

The first meeting will be January 11, 1996 at Stacey's at 11:30 AM.

For further information, contact Lorraine Witkowski, WA1EDR, 812 McCallister Ave., Sun City Center, FL 33573. ♦



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Knights of the Kilocycle

Don Browne, KQ4YM

Knights of the Kilocycle

Celebrate 66th Anniversary

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating its 66th anniversary of operation. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. The net has met every Sunday since 1929 with the exception of the years during World War II when amateur radio transmitting was forbidden. Since 1929 there have been over 530 memberships awarded to amateur operators. The net welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net.

Among long-time members are Knight member Wes, W4COW of Tampa, a Knight since March of 1955. Wes and XYL Blanche W4GXZ are also active officials in the QCWA. Andy W4IYT of Miami Springs has been a member since May 1957.

Charlie, K8RIF of Lakeland is the Knight's Master Oscillator and directs the net masterfully each week.

Jay, K9BSL of St. Pete reports weekly on the members' birthdays and anniversaries during the week while George, W4MDV of Dunedin has given the beginning invocation each week for many years.

The age of the Knight members range from Charlie, W1PB of Zephyrhills, 87 and Floyd, N4FL of Lauderdale Lakes, 86 to John, KL7JV of Port Charlotte, 37.

Not to be left out among the regular check-ins are the Ladies of the

Kilocycle, including Marian, KC4MFT of New Port Richey, and Carol AD4ZY of Tavares.

Stan, W4JKK still has not hooked that whopper in the lake behind his new home in Sebastian. His neighbor Dave is teaching him canoe fishing.

John, KL7JV of Port Charlotte is recovering from sore muscles while helping pain his neighbor's house and hiking through recent hamfest grounds where he became the proud owner of an electronic keyer.

Bob, W4KOG of North Palm Beach has been attending hamfests and makes our weekly news report on hamfest schedules. The Okeechobee event was declared a success again this year and many positive reports have been received by those attending. Bob also reports his successes and failures of his gardening each season. So far: Bob 1 - tomato pests 3.

Marion, KC4MFT was having some trouble being heard on the net while transmitting one week recently. Fortunately, Doug, master of the house, ham extraordinaire, and N4SLS advised her to turn the microphone around and speak into the part with the holes. He quipped that he wished she'd do that more often so he would hear so many of her honey do's. There was no report heard of Marion's retort to Doug. We can only guess the list got longer that week.

While the sunspot cycle seems to be on the slow upswing, the bands have been fairly long at times on 80 meters. We are still hearing some of the Indiana nets on Sunday mornings.

Theoretically we should all go out and lower our antennas to a few feet above the ground to get more local transmitting success.

We encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Join us and chat awhile about your activities. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles. ♦

Continued from page 5

From Earl, K4FQU SWFTN Net Manager: 1995 is almost over and I think we had a good year. We still have the month of December to go for traffic so it may be a good one yet. I can hardly believe the year is almost over. I remember when I was a kid, I never expected to live long enough to see 1996 come in, but here it is.

In spite of my being gone for four months, the net went on as usual, which I am thankful for and as it should. It was in good hands I knew so there was no room for worry. My thanks to all of you and especially Harry who had the bulk of the burden.

We are faced with another shortage again. We need a couple of new net control stations. Our good friend Okey is going back up north. We wish you well Okey and are extremely sorry to see you go and will miss your cheerful voice on the air.

Okey's regular day was Thursday which is now open. I would like to use Thursdays as a testing ground. I would like new people, some which I am now working on, to run the traffic net on Thursdays for a full month at a time, then step down and let someone else, preferably newcomers, take over for the next month. This would give people ample time for getting used to being Net Control and will become a good training ground. So now all we need is a few newcomers.

The year will be over when I next write a few lines to you so I take this time to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all get that new rig you want.

Again, I say a great big thank you to all of you that have made the net what it is. I couldn't have done it without your. Thanks from the bottom of my heart. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - Earl, K4FQU, Net Manager. ♦

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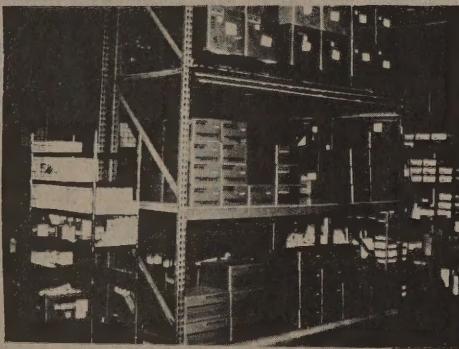
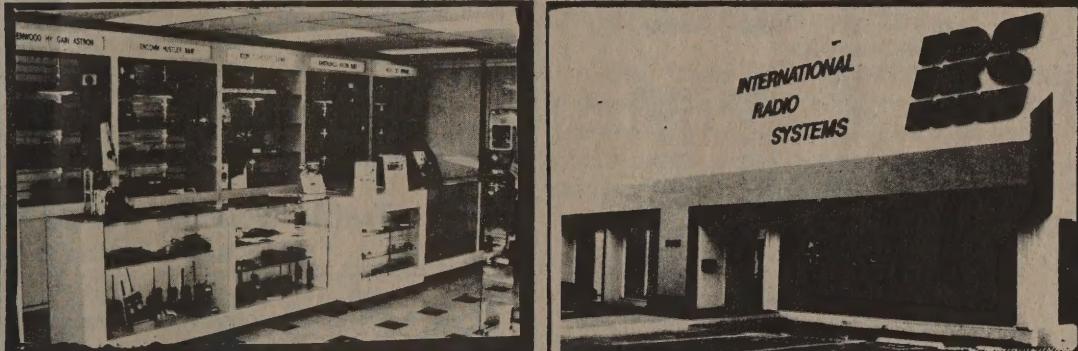


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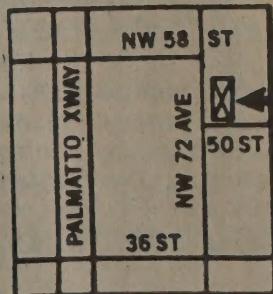


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Statistics

South Florida BBS Totals - Nov., 1995 Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
K0ZXF	0	379	8510	8889
K4VJI	247	1517	8826	10590
KB4GBS	11	762	7988	8761
KB4GCZ	2	204	961	1167
KB4VOL	64	1165	6899	8128
KB4WUA	0	377	8865	9242
KC4YEK	-NO REPORT-			
KD4GR	114	613	6914	7641
KD4AMS	3	301	7880	8184
KD4INY	5	260	9678	9951
KD4MJV	11	1280	7001	8292
KD4MZM	0	325	8869	9194
KD4WLE	-NO REPORT-			
KD4UBZ	0	247	6107	6354
KE2IX	529	1671	5869	8069
KE4AQU	-NO REPORT-			
KE4BXF	-NO REPORT-			
KE4CRB	59	1665	8888	10612
KF4BPX	3	285	3058	3346
KF4OJ	0	275	4052	4327
KI4ZJ	2	215	2077	2294
KN4YT	237	1306	7846	9389
KP4EDL	8	899	4372	5279
N1OUT	0	137	3897	4034
N4AWX	26	2163	4722	6911
N4HHP	174	2705	7113	9992
N4KWB	4	159	536	699
N4XEO	45	1438	5572	7055
W1NPR	-NO REPORT-			
W4DPH	299	6369	8029	14697
W4MWP	22	479	8473	8974
W4OT	9	315	4376	4700
W8DUV	-NO REPORT-			
WA2LKI	446	3358	5806	9610
WB2WPA	11	772	5249	6032
WB4MOZ	49	585	7008	7642
WB4TEM	89	879	7002	7970
WD4NKZ	8	604	6308	6920
WD8IBY	79	1227	8058	9364

NTS TOTAL: 2556

Great NTS total! Nothing like Turkey Day to bring 'em out. Thanks to all for a fine job! Now let's see what December brings...

If you have any questions, or need the software utilities to generate your BBS report, drop me a note with your name, address and size floppy needed. There's no charge. The utilities work with all types of bbs software except TCP/IP (NOS.)

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to **N4GMU** @ **N4GMU**. South Florida BBS's to **KB4VOL** @ **KB4VOL**. Reports MUST be sent on the 1st covering BBS activity for the previous month. Please participate!

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL, ARRL Packet Manager South Florida.

Top Twenty Traffickers - Nov. 1995

-by AA4HT and WX4J

	Station	Total		Station	Total
1	W3CUL	2583	11	NR2F	562
2	WX4H	2139	12	N0ZO	548
3	K4FQU	1285	13	WA4PUP	489
4	W3VR	1056	14	KB4WBY	433
5	KE4DNO	880	15	W7AMM	430
6	K4SCL	866	16	AB4XK	379
7	N4SS	864	17	KA4FZI	333
8	WA9VND	846	18	KC4ZHF	314
9	KB6ECH	844	19	KA2YZM	304
10	AA4HT	572	20	WV5Z	282

Traffic Hounds - Nov., 1995

-by Kevin Bunin, WV5Z STM SFL

Net	QNI	Avg.	QTC	Avg.	Ses.	Mgr.	QTC/QNI
AIN	52	17.3	2	0.7	3	WA4ATF	0.04
BECPN	174	43.5	4	1	4	KA2YZM	0.02
DEN	325	65	13	2.6	5	N4LTT	0.04
ENMC	51	10.2	5	1	5	KB4UEI	0.1
EPAN	448	17.2	38	1.5	26	AD4BL	0.08
FAST	731	12.2	240	4	60	KE4ESV	0.33
FMSN	272	9.1	183	6.1	30	WA9VND	0.67
FMTN	586	19.5	338	11.3	30	KC4ZHN	0.58
FPON	220	7.3	48	1.6	30	WB4GCK	0.22
FPTN	1357	45.2	207	6.9	30	WN4IIV	0.15
GN	204	6.8	311	10.4	30	W4DL	1.52
LCATTN	831	28.7	46	1.6	29	AC4MJ	0.06
NFAN	1166	44.8	302	11.6	26	WA4NDA	0.26
NFPN	914	30.5	147	4.9	30	AD4DO	0.16
PBCEN	255	51	5	1	5	WB2OUK	0.02
PBTN	918	35.3	44	1.7	26	KE4CGQ	0.05
PCAN	128	32	0	0	4	KD4EFM	0
PCSN	48	12	0	0	4	KE4RVP	0
QFN	806	13.4	880	14.7	60	WX4H	1.09
QFNS	191	6.6	55	1.9	29	KE4DNO	0.29
SEFTN	1084	36.1	361	12	30	KD4GR	0.33
SFAN	53	17.7	11	3.7	3	KD4GR	0.21
SNMC	32	8	4	1	4	KE4LDQ	0.13
SPARC	424	14.1	34	1.1	30	N4ZMQ	0.08
SVTN	715	24.7	253	8.7	29	KE4DNO	0.35
SWFTN	478	18.4	430	16.5	26	K4FQU	0.9
TPTN	731	24.4	297	9.9	30	NR2F	0.41
VCTN	282	9.4	76	2.5	30	KE4DNO	0.27

TOTAL	4334	AVG	0.30
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North Florida BBS Totals - Nov., 1995

Dave Sutherland / N4GMU

CALL	BULL	PERS	NTS	TOTAL
AA4RU	8630	2075	411	0746
KK4CQ				
W1FJI				
K4GBB	4687	496	30	5213
N4GMU				
KC4HQS				
WN4IIV	4859	1054	20	5933
WX4J	56	425	731	1212
N4JTS	987	118	7	1112
N8NEU	483	42	0	525
WD4NOD	3197	724	35	3956
K4OZS	4404	146	3	4553
KE4SZP	2592	359	1	2952
KB4T	987	347	2	1598
W4WEB	6	737	663	1466
N4ZKF				
N0ZO	160	3566	543	4269
N1NFC(GA)	44	660	16	680

Total NTS traffic for NFL: 2092

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If you're travelling on I 95, exit #47 at 6th Avenue South. Travel west on 6th Ave South until Congress Ave., turn North on Congress Ave. Continue North until Lakeworth Road, turn East, continue East to the second entrance, turn South into the park. Once you are in the park make another right turn continuing down the road on the right is MOUND CIRCLE.

Talk in is on 147.135 (+600) or 146.670 (-600). For more information:

Marvin Kaskawits,
KD2CK@KB4VOL,
(407) 683-2930.

p00147b@pbffreenet.sefln.lib.fl.us

Amateur Radio School Net

The Amateur Radio School Net meets on the Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society repeater on 147.285 on Tuesdays during the school day and on Thursday afternoons from 4-5 PM. Thursday afternoons have worked best for most schools.

From Ken Cossaboom, N1BL of New Port

Richey, Florida

Mr. Sillman (December Issue), and Mr. Sumner have peculiar ideas of an Editor's function when they believe that an Editor should oversee and ensure the validity of a writer's opinions and beliefs.

Yes, the Editor could append a note to the article but to expect him to look over the writer's shoulder, or to pre-direct him (censorship in a manner of speaking) to only express totally so-called "accurate" facts is quite absurd.

Montaigne says in Book II, Essay No. 32 that the most absurd thing in the world is that everyone thinks that he is right beyond all else, and everybody else should live and think as he himself does.

Ed. Note: It's delightful to find there are individuals who speak in defense of Editors and Ken is not related to me. Montaigne also said, "There were never in the world two opinions alike, any more than two hairs or two grains. Their most universal quality is diversity." (Essays, Book II, ch. 37). ger//



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The Internet Explosion

In the past months, I have talked about the Internet and the possibilities. I have only owned an E-Mail account for about a year and with it came a direct Internet access account. Recently, I have used the net extensively. If I have a question about anything, I open a Web Site like Lycos and use a search tool to look for answers. The power at my desk is amazing and our phone bill here at work has dropped quite a bit because we don't call long distance help lines anymore.

Well, it looks like I'm not alone. Internet accounts are one of the fastest growing facets of the personal computer market. Netscape, the premier Web Crawler product (the software that displays the information on your screen) has now gone public and their stock is at an all time price to earnings high. Investors believe that the Internet is to the 90's as television was in the 50's and 60's.

The latest announcement from Microsoft and NBC News will place an interactive news site on the Web. What does this mean? Well, if the site is updated as events take place, a web surfer (that's us) could log in to the NBC News site and bring up pictures and text of breaking news. You won't have to wait until the News at 11. But, the most powerful part of this online news service is the vast quantity that will be available. In every part of the country, there is local news and national news. There is only one hour allocated to present it, and you have to sit through the whole broadcast to get at that one piece of information that you really want. Interactive news changing all that. A news server could provide both local, national, and world news all at the same time. If you wanted to look at the weather in Toledo, Ohio, you could select that region of the country and display Toledo news. If you were interested in occurrences in Thailand, you could look there too. And, you can browse and read at your own pace and on your own schedule.

The power of interactive communication is really the direct control the user has over his information. In the past, we as a society is accustomed to lining up for a movie only shown at one time or gathering around the TV to watch a program only shown at one

time. Interactive communication will let you watch a football game by logging in to the site where it was recorded and playing it back. The interactive news site is just the beginning.

The real question is profitability. The view on the web sites is designed to occupy a normal monitor screen. Each page can contain pictures, words, and now advertising. Advertising is what pays the bills. If you subscribe to the Internet through a local provider, you are paying for modem bandwidth and typically you can get fifty hours of web access for about twenty dollars. If you access the Internet through America On-Line or Compuserve, then you pay the fees for access to their system. However, the use of the Web Server is free. The revenue for providing the Web Server is generated by selling space on the web page or from profits derived from selling products listed on the site. The price for that space is based on the number of users who view it. Television audiences have always been estimated by using Nielson families or viewer surveys. Actual numbers are impossible to realize. Internet servers, on the other hand, are logging not only how many people log in but also who you are (by your Internet Address) and how long you stay. Some web sites ask you to fill out a survey questionnaire before you can log in. The questions are similar to the ones you answer on warranty return cards. The data base created from these log-in surveys is also a revenue generator in spite of the violation of your right to privacy (Is privacy really a right? Ahh, a topic for another discourse).

Access to the Internet is typically limited to the performance of the standard phone modem. Most users have at least a 14,400 baud modem and if you don't, your neighborhood computer store will happily sell you one for about \$60. If you want the best, a 28,800 modem is about \$150 and operates about twice

as fast. Phone modems limit the web pages to still photos in compressed format, text, and non real-time download of movies. Actual real-time news reel footage requires about T1 bandwidth that is about 1.5 Megabits per second and that assumes MPEG compression. T1 links cost over \$2000 a month and that doesn't include the computer equipment at both ends of the link. So, for now, you'll have to live with still pictures on your Internet access.

Faster access is not too far off. There are several different concepts for bringing high speed data into your house. The cable companies want to use the coax cable bi-directionally. These cables carry in excess of 500 Megahertz of bandwidth. With today's technology, that translates into at least 500 Megabits per second of data. More than enough to carry high quality video and sound. The telephone companies are considering running fiber optic cable to every house replacing the twisted pairs that we currently use. Now that some phone companies are buying up cable companies, it's hard to say what we will get. One thing is for sure. In the not distant future, we will access our communication, entertainment, and information on our own schedule and in our own way and this technology will be based on the Internet of today.

Steve

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Sunspots, What they are

The sunspot cycle and how it will affect future communications in the amateur radio bands.

-by D. Pike Abell, W4EPU

Throughout recorded history observers have noted that sunspots vary in numbers in cycles. The cycles of nominally eleven years have been recorded since before cycle 1 beginning in the year 1755. Sunspots are counted daily and averaged out monthly to obtain the smoothed mean sunspot number or SSN. The cycle begins and ends with the mean low count.

Sunspots are dark areas of various sizes and shapes on the surface of the sun. Sometimes they are large enough to be seen by the naked eye. Although cautions for using proper filters when observing the sun cannot be over-emphasized. Unusually high ultraviolet (UV) rays emanate from sun spots, enhancing the normal ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

The upper region of the earth's atmosphere consists mainly of oxygen and nitrogen with relatively small amounts of helium, hydrogen and other gasses. When atoms of these gases are bombarded with ultraviolet rays the gasses absorb the UV rays, causing electrons to be knocked off of the atoms making them positively charged, or positive ions, creating the ionosphere.

Radio waves, especially in the high frequency (HF) range (3 to 30 MHz) are refracted or bounced off the ionosphere and returned to earth. In

so doing, the radio waves skip around the earth providing long distance (DX) communications. The more sunspots there are, the more ultraviolet rays and the more intense the ionosphere. The more intense the ionosphere, the higher the frequency the radio waves that will be returned to earth after striking the ionosphere.

The present cycle, #22, began in September 1986. The peak has already passed and the SSN is declining toward the next low expected in 1997. The mean SSN in November 1995 was approximately 20. That is a very low SSN considering that the predicted low at the end of this cycle is not expected for another two years.

Unfortunately, we do not have much to look forward to in the way of world-wide communications in the high end of the High Frequency amateur bands, particularly the ten and fifteen meter bands, and sometimes even the twenty meters for another five or so years. If the present SSN trend continues, DX communications frequencies will even be lower than they are now for two or three more years.

On the plus side, the eleven year cycle is lopsided in that it goes from the lowest to the highest number of spots in about three or four years. Therefore, the highest SSN for Cycle #23 will be expected around the turn of the century, the year 2000 or 2001. If it were not for solar flares, tropospheric scatter or ducting, the affects or occasional sporadic-E etc. (all of

which are beyond the scope of this article) there would be very little DX in and above the 21 MHz amateur band until the sunspot numbers increase significantly.

If I may touch briefly on one other facet - even now, there are sometimes a number of sunspots in one general area of the sun. The sun rotates on its axis once every four weeks (27 days). As the sun rotates, moving the spots to the side of the sun facing the earth, good DX communications should prevail. If one experiences good DX for several days running, try again in four weeks when that part of the sun is again facing you. The sunspots may reappear every four weeks for several rotations of the sun.

If you have not been involved in amateur or commercial HF radio communications long enough to experience the effects of changes in long distance communications by the sunspot numbers throughout the eleven year cycle, you are in for some very pleasant surprises by what may take place when the SSN reaches its peak. DX should be commonplace up through the ten meter band and, if the SSN is unusually high, say, 150 to 200 and above, DX should possibly also be good in the six meter band.

Those of you who are relative newcomers to the world of amateur radio, and are interested in DX, be patient and be prepared for some good DX in five or so years - It will be well worth your wait. ♦

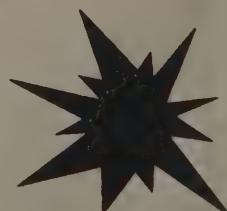
OSCAR 17 link fails

The DOVE-OSCAR17 satellite 2-meter downlink failed December 3, and the AMSAT control team is not sure why. While it's not clear if the problem resulted from a computer crash aboard the spacecraft, the control team plans to try reloading the software to see if that fixes it. The satellite's S-band transmitter is on, and the permanent onboard backup software is working.

Jim White, WD0E, of AMSAT says reloading DOVE is a complex process that could take from two weeks to a month if all goes well and there are no hardware problems. White says reloading requires a lot of operational skill and some unique equipment configurations, plus more than one command station.

DOVE-OSCAR17 is used for educational and research purposes.

- ARRL



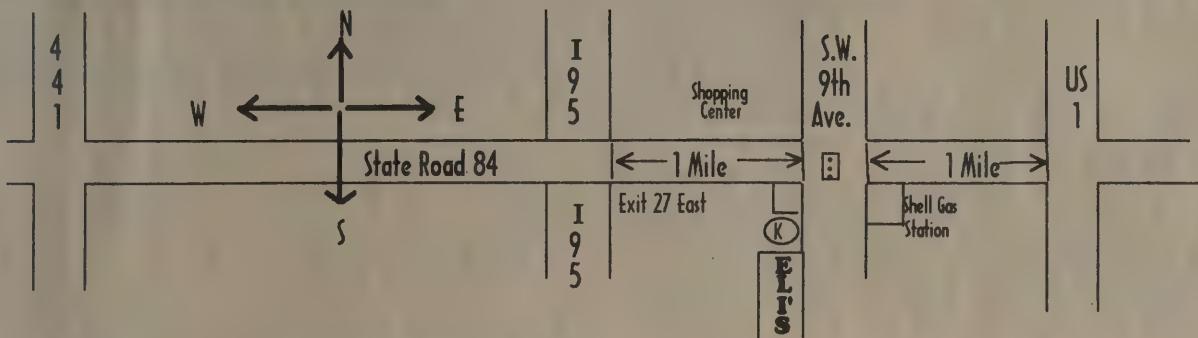
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A trip with Internet Phone

The VocalTec Inc., Internet Phone software finally got installed on my computer with the greatest difficulty in finding a satisfactory microphone. All one needs is a standard mike that is used with a tape recorder. Of course my one operating mike had to be one used with a specialized recorder used for audio/visual presentations and had multiple connectors. So I bought a new mike.

The installation was a breeze doing little more than inserting disk and running the setup.exe. In order to operate Internet Phone, one must connect to the Internet via a TCP/IP connection, or via a modem SLIP/PPP connection of 14,400 baud or higher, with Winsock 1.1 compatible software.

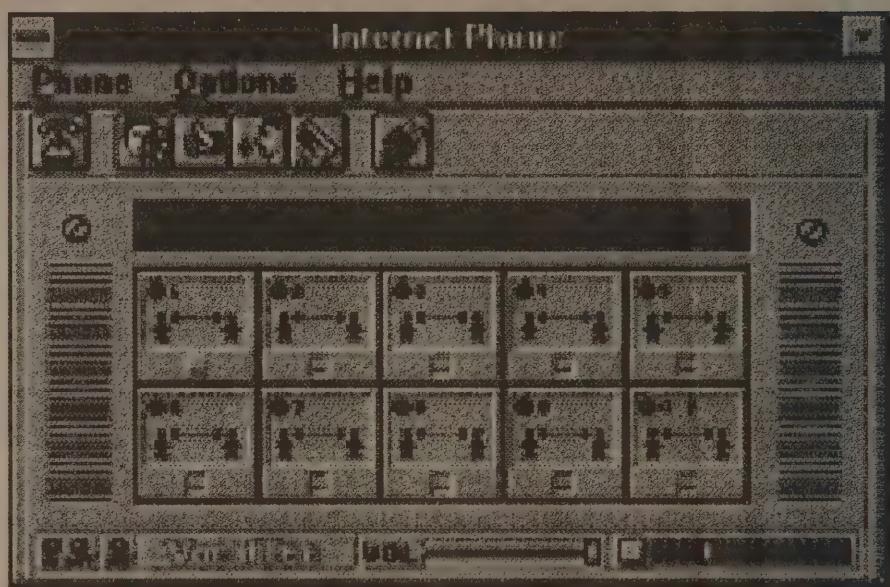
Double click the Internet Phone icon and you're on your way. The user interface appears and there's not a whole lot left to one's often counter-productive imagination. There's the toolbar (Connect, Call and Disconnect), Message line (report ongoing operations, status and errors), Quick-Dial buttons (like memorized calling keys on ordinary phone), Voice Activation level (audio level setting), and Volume slider (volume level of your audio output device).

Before being able to talk on the Internet one must connect to an Internet Phone Server. Most of the common servers are already provided on your list of IRC Servers and there are many more that one can accumulate by surfing around. One finds that generally you will find the same topics and users shared by many different servers although some cater to a narrow spectrum of specialized interest groups.

The next step to actual digital talking is the most mind-taxing step into the world of Internet Phone: Selecting the Topic of Conversation and picking a name from a list that ranges from common obscene words to obvious aliases (Adam Bombe, Eva Peron, Monty Python) and then a giant list of common names. Pay your money and take your chances!

When one click on "Topics", one is presented with a list of every topic imaginable - some offensive and others appealing. Much of it is broken down to regional areas of the country and nationality. I compiled a list of SOME of the topics since it could run into 100 or more at peak times.

Amateur Radio	Computers
America Latina	Connecticut
Australia	Europe
Bisexual	Florida
Canada	Francais
Cantonese (HK)	Friendly Chat
Chinese	Full Duplex Users
Chinese Club	General Chat Channel
Christian	Ham Radio



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Windows 95

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41+

World's Chat

And an edited version of some of the others:

SEX SEX SEX

Teen Girls

Crack Codes

Gay Men

Except for a few occasions, everyone I talked to was civilized and a serious experimenter. Ironically, in the limited time I have been "playing" with Internet Phone, about a third of my connects were with amateur radio operators and I didn't necessarily hang around the amateur radio or ham topic channels.

Before connecting to anyone, I usually select a harmless looking name and then click on it. The Nickname, supposedly real name, Comment and Host are displayed in the lower left corner. Often the Comment will give information on the location of user or their topic of interest. By looking at the Host, one can sometimes see if the user resides in one of the many "strange" channels that are a integral part of massive internet. Many users will stay around their own peculiar interest channel but hang out or make their phone available on other channels. To some extent, one learns to recognize the "attack dogs" that are as much a part of Internet Phone as on the bands and repeaters of amateur radio. And then there are topics that are obviously not suitable for my particular consumption and I just stay clear of them.

After spending a lot of server time reviewing and re-reviewing topics and names, I summoned nerve to make

my first call to "Guar" at an EDU address in Bangkok, Thailand. Since I lived and worked in Thailand for many years and still retained some ability to converse in Thai, I clicked on Guar. The phone rang just like a phone rings. Egad! Someone said Hello. I identified myself and my location and groped for something intelligent to say. It was different than calling CQ on amateur radio where both parties have a pretty good idea what the conversation is going to be. After I overcame my stage fright, things proceeded nicely. Guer turned out to be a lecturer in physics at the University. I noticed that he always said, "over" at the end of his communication and it certainly made it easy since there is a perceptible and discomforting delay when one person ceases to talk and when one hears the response. As it turned out, he too was a ham. Guer spoke impeccable English but I attempted some fractured Thai on him. He politely complimented me on my ability but I'm sure he harbored a gag out of my view.

Just as the conversation got rolling, we lost our connection but I had been baptized and became a disciple of Internet Phone. I quickly followed Guer's call with a calls to a gentleman in Hong Kong and had a lengthy conversation with a delightful American girl who was in Israel attending a University. I might point out that unlike chat or packet radio, the phone calls are private and theoretically unable to be monitored by an unwanted third party.

The quality of the sound leaves a lot to be desired but much of that could be rooted in the quality of my computer sound system. Since I never went overboard on the multimedia options, I may be seeing the results. However, there is no great difficulty in understanding what is being said. I guess I would describe it as like an AM radio signal that has been highly filtered and squeezed into the narrowest intelligible bandwidth. And, as I have mentioned, the agonizing delay between transmission and reception. Since I'm operating half-duplex, I can't say whether this phenomenon disappears with a full-duplex sound board.

The software package costs anywhere from 45-70 dollars, depending where you purchase it. I'm sure that significant improvements will be made to the quality of sound at the rate things are moving these days. You can bet that many bells and whistles will be added too. It would be nice to have a better phone directory.

In conclusion, I can say it's a bundle of fun for very little money. Of course that's assuming you already have a computer and internet connection.

Sayonara! I'm goin' international jet-chatting with Internet Phone. ♦
ger//

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American troops are on the move and Internet users can stay abreast of the activities at BosniaLINK. According to a DoD spokesman, the web page will eventually enable persons to communicate and send messages to individuals stationed in Bosnia.

The BosniaLINK is being provided through the cooperative efforts of the Office of The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), and the Defense Technical Information Center. All of the information in the BosniaLINK is publicly released information from the U.S. government or NATO headquarters.

The BosniaLINK contains operation maps, fact sheets, news releases, biographies of key commanders and leaders, and transcripts of briefings, speeches and testimony. It is also hyperlinked to the NATO and State Department information services.

The Internet address for BosniaLINK is:

<http://www.dtic.dla.mil/bosnia/>

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Wiretapping du

Jour

The FBI has released a dramatic "reinterpretation" of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (the "Digital Telephony" bill or "CALEA"). In a Federal Register notice which outlines "capacity requirements" for surveillance of the nation's communications infrastructure, the FBI is claiming that compliance with CALEA requires that telephone companies and other service providers in some regions of the country build in enough surveillance capacity so that *one percent* of all phone lines could be *simultaneously* wiretapped, calls isolated, and forwarded to the FBI. This would permit wiretapping at a level at least a thousand times greater than currently occurs in the United States. This level of surveillance is also far in excess of what Congress intended when it enacted the CALEA. The rule, if adopted, will lead to a radical change in the surveillance capabilities of the government.

The methodology used to determine capacity requirements is also deeply flawed. Wiretapping reports, as required by law, have always been based on actual taps authorized, actual conversations intercepted, and actual lines surveilled. These numbers are reported annually by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The Bureau's proposed rule attempts to shift from the analytic approach required by current wiretap law to one that is based on percentages of total communications activity.

- Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)

Clipper Chip Update

Dorothy Denning of Georgetown University, government advocate of the notorious Clipper Chip and James Lucier of Americans for Tax Reform and advocate of individual privacy rights, debated the pros and cons of the government's accelerating interest in forcing the clipper technology on the private sector.

The two appeared on Capitol Watch, December 12, 1995. The host, Tom Jipping of National Empowerment Television noted that it is a desire of the government to tap into the private communications and computers of all private citizens. Ms. Denning stated that we (the government) promise we won't use this capability and besides, we won't have the keys to access the clipper chip. Theoretically, the keys will be held by some non-profit, private sector organization. But, she continued, the government could get the keys by court order.

The position of James Lucier was that if an individual wishes to encrypt or protect his private information he should be able to do so. Ms. Denning felt that the government should be able to access anything in pursuit of terrorists. Besides, they wouldn't do anything without first getting a court order.

Mr Lucier cited numerous incidences where the government wasn't entirely ethical in obtaining court orders in carrying out its pursuit of real or perceived terrorists. He summed it up by holding up a copy of the December 12th Baltimore Sun newspaper whose front page story detailed how NSA routinely and randomly monitors the private phone calls of ordinary citizens.

Ed. Note. The nasty reaction of many people to the clipper chip technology seems to have prompted its advocates to obscure the term. I have noticed in the piles of bulletins and reports that I scan, the term "clipper chip" is skirted and a crisis is manufactured that the encryption technology might find its way into the wrong hands. I guess that might mean me.

An encryption program (PGP - Pretty Good Privacy), written by Phil Zimmerman is virtually unbreakable and is at the center of the debate on the clipper chip. The program is readily available on the Internet. If you would like to read more about the encryption debate and/or download the PGP encryption program, take a look at:

<http://draco.centerline.com:8080/~franl/pgp/>

January 1996 ♦ SKIP

SKIP loses fine MARS

Editor

It was unpleasant news to receive an e-mail message from Lorraine Matthew, AAA9PR - respected and long-standing Editor of the Army MARS column - that she and her husband Matt, KC4RKJ (former Editor of the Florida Panhandle column) are moving to Arizona. Understandably, she will no longer be able to function as the Editor.

In a sense, I was relieved to find out that she was resigning her position because of the impending move rather than for the failure to print her November column (which was eaten by the e-mail system). Lorraine had published a column in Florida Skip, uninterrupted for five years. With the remarkable advances in technology, Lorraine and I were ecstatic at the ability for us to quickly and efficiently exchange information within minutes. It was that very advance in technology that broke her string.

In paying tribute to Lorraine, I cannot overlook Matt. Matt's column was always very comprehensive and difficult given his area of coverage and the somewhat scattered sources of information in the Panhandle. But, he always managed to come up with a fine column and it was interesting, even if one didn't live near the Panhandle. Matt had a knack for picking topics of broad interest to all hams; one which comes to mind is his essay on obtaining vanity license tags. As a result of his column, I had to stock the proper application forms to satisfy the many requests addressed to the magazine. Matt was also an ardent photographer and didn't stop at taking pictures but took a series of photographs that told a story.

Lorraine and Matt are fine examples of "good people". Although we only occasionally met at major hamfests, we communicated frequently by phone and e-mail. Lorraine and I shared a common interest in the travails of freelance writers and their eternal struggle to get their latest "work of art" published.

I will miss them and I know many of the readers will miss them. I would like to wish them good luck, good health and Godspeed with their new beginning in Arizona. ger//

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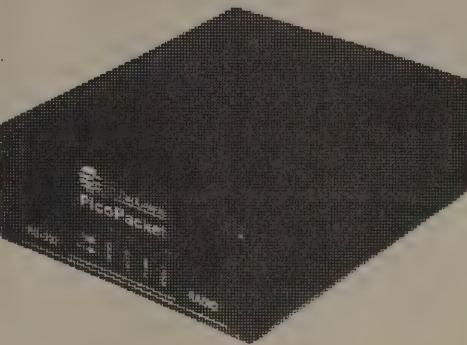
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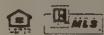
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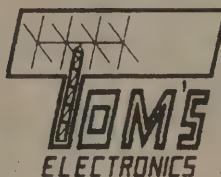
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Army MARS Report

Lorraine S. Matthew, AAA9PR

1996 — a new year for us all with new opportunities and challenges to be met. This is also a time of reflection on the year that has passed.

For Florida Army MARS members, that reflection of 1995 can be expressed in one word — HURRICANE! All the world knows that 1995 Hurricane season was the most active one in history with 20 named storms. At some point in their travels, each storm appeared to be headed for Florida. Fortunately, only about a dozen impacted the state directly. They either came ashore in Florida or the effects of the storms which came ashore elsewhere were strongly felt.

In all events, Florida Army MARS members were alerted and on line when needed. The direct support given to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico when they were devastated has been reported in this column previously. This support confirms that Army MARS support is available at all times to all areas whether the emergency be at home or outside the state.

Within the state of Florida, sev-

eral storms impacted directly — particularly Erin and Opal which came ashore in the Panhandle within 40 miles of each other exactly 2 months apart. Living in the Panhandle, I can attest that the devastation that was shown on TV channels everywhere is only part of the picture. It will take many years before the combined effects of Erin and Opal are erased.

For all the in-state activity, Florida Army MARS members set up the emergency networks that work so well and were prominently active in the Early Emergency Information flow to the Pentagon in the form of Essential Elements of Information reports. Florida has always led the nation in these efforts and will meet this challenge throughout 1996. If practice makes perfect, Florida Army MARS must be a most skilled group in emergency operations.

In addition, Florida Army MARS is dynamic in all areas of Army MARS operations — traffic handling, training, technical development and adaptation, and general service to the state

and to each other. I have been proud to have been a member of Florida Army MARS.

I say that I have been proud to have been a member of Florida Army MARS because I will be leaving the state. This move to Arizona has required my withdrawal from Florida Army MARS and my entry into service with Arizona Army MARS.

Florida Army MARS has been very good for me personally. It is the family atmosphere while maintaining the efficiency of service in Florida Army MARS that allowed me to develop into the MARS operator that I am today. This combination of attitudes has been generated under the most capable leadership of Florida Army MARS State Director, Bert Fow.

I came into Florida Army MARS a very green and inexperienced new Ham. If anyone was elmered by Bob Watson/W4DTV, that person was handed a MARS application as soon as that first FCC ticket arrived. I didn't even know what MARS was when I joined. I won't list all the problems

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that I created in those early days, but each one of them was met with friendly help from those members on the nets — and, to their dismay, I insisted on being on every net. Gradually, I learned all those factors and techniques that only experience can teach. My thanks and appreciation are extended to all of Florida Army MARS for 5.5 years of experiences that will never be forgotten.

Within five months of joining Army MARS, I was requested to write this column. It has had an uninterrupted run for five years (except November, 1995 when the computer swallowed the piece), and I have thoroughly enjoyed writing it. This exposure has also led to MARS columns in other publications as well. Again, my appreciation to the publishers and editors of Florida Skip for giving me the opportunity to write the column.

This, then, is my last regular column for the "Skip". Thus I bid you all a fond farewell.

Take care and God bless.

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QCWA Shines In Sun City

The first organizational meeting of a new Chapter of QCWA in Sun City Center, met at Stacey's Restaurant on November 8, 1995 at 12:30 PM. Leo Witkowski, K1QPJ and Lorraine Witkowski, WA1EDR acted as co-chairmen.

Twenty hams, members of QCWA National, voted to form a local chapter of QCWA. It was agreed to meet four times a year, on the Second Thursday of January, March, September and November at Stacey's

Restaurant on Rt. 674, Sun Point Shopping Center at 11:30 AM. Dates for 1996 are: 1/11/96, 3/14/96, 9/12/96 and 11/14/96.

The following accepted nomination for office:

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In an agreement with Tiare Publications, Florida Skip will make it convenient for its readers to order books by the top experts in their respective fields. There are books on everything from QSLing your ham radio contacts to scanning to tuning in on radio signals from space.

The featured list as published does not reflect the complete selection of books that are available. For a complete list, please send a SASE to Florida Skip Books, 672 Indian River Dr., Melbourne, FL 32935.

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Vol. 1 - Basics	14.95
Vol. 2 - Advanced	19.95
Vol 3 - Hardware	14.95
Luchi's General Class License Guide	19.95
Luchi's No-code Tech License Guide	22.95
Luchi's Novice License Guide	19.95
Pse Qsl (Expert's Guide to Amateur Radio QSLing)	12.95
Radio TV Interference - Sources/Solutions	6.95
Secret Signals - The Euronumbers Mystery	12.95
Secrets of Successful QSLing (SWLing)	14.95
Shortwave Goes to School (Teacher's Guide to SW in the Classroom)	25.00
Warship Directory (w/radio calls and frequencies - Vol. 1 - US, Canada, Great Britain)	14.95
World Ham Net Directory (4th Edition, over 1,100 worldwide amateur radio nets listed by name, day/time/frequency)	12.95

Featured this month

The Scanner Listener's Handbook. How to hear more on your Scanner Radio. By Edward Soomre, N1BFF.

What frequencies do you program into your scanner in order to pick up your local ambulance service, police department or the airport control tower? The book breaks down all the frequency ranges covered by scanners, from 25.02 MHz all the way up to 2,110 MHz. Everything is listed including cellular telephone frequency ranges. All information is cross indexed.

There are chapters on scanner radios, antennas, accessory equipment, how two-way radio systems work, information about coaxial cable and computer-controlled monitoring on your scanner. \$14.95 plus \$2 s/h.

Secret Signals. The EuroNumbers Mystery. By Simon Mason.

There are numbers broadcasts which originate in Europe, and many of them can be heard in North America. Here's fascinating information about such mystery stations as the "Czech Drum and Trumpet" station, "Papa November," "Bulgarian Betty," "The Lincolnshire Poacher," "Swedish Rhapsody" and many more.

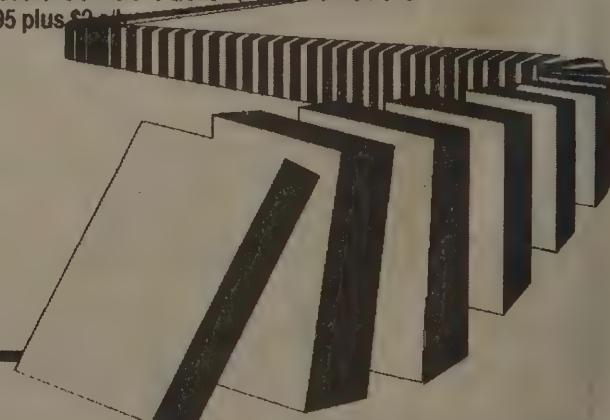
Includes information about formats, transmission mistakes, traffic excerpts and a full, by-frequency listing. \$12.95 plus \$2 s/h.

Secrets of Successful QSLing. The complete guide to reception reporting and QSL collecting. By Gerry L. Dexter.

One of the best ever written on the subject. Beyond the basics of reception reporting (which are discussed in great detail) the book covers the tips, tricks and techniques the author developed in over 40 years of reception reporting and QSLing. Learn about taped reports, follow-ups, when to send them and how to report in a foreign language. Go after the tough stations with such techniques as paralleling, shotgunning, peppering, grovelling and the John Alden method. Learn how to use prepared cards, all about postal services and how to track your reporting efforts.

Included is a special section on how to care for your QSL collection and features several pages showing reproductions of historic QSLs from around the world.

\$14.95 plus \$2 s/h



(Order Blank on Page 27)

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Commercial

\$1.50 / Line

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10 words

HAMBARS

Boxed or bold - Add \$1.00

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10 words

WANTED TO BUY - Collins 51J3, 51J4, Kenwood Rcvr, R599. Wanted JAN Military Triodes VT4C 211 types 203, 813s, small JAN types. Wanted Heath, Murch, Johnson, Nye, Dentron Antenna Tuner. Call Milton Levy anytime: 813-791-4730 or write 2042 Australia Way W, #8, Clearwater, FL 34623.

FOR SALE - Authentic Craftmatic single bed, used 3 weeks. Operate your rig from any of a million positions, U pick up cuz it's really heavy. Asking \$600.00 (1/3 original cost) but will consider reasonable offers (it's in the way). Call ger// -1-800-421-3279.

WANTED - Knight T-50 transmitter. Kelsey hand operated printing press/type for QSL's. Don Trayes, WB4CVH. P.O. Box 2114, Winter Haven, FL 33883-2114. PH: 941-299-9227.

FACTORY SERVICE MANUALS AND OTHERS - Yaesu, FT-77, FT-101E, TS930S, KWMA, IC22A, IC22U, PSC22U, Drake TR-M, TS820S and others; Standard, SWAN, Collins. Send SASE with your needs. Thanks. Andy Clark, W4IYT, 41 Lenape Dr., Miami Springs, FL 33166. PH: 305-888-3874.

Famous Cat Codependent Quotation: "The only thing we have to fear is fur itself."

WANTED - Halicrafters SX88, SX-115, HQ180. Elmer Shafer, N8ES. 3479 Kersdale Rd. Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124. PH: 831-9198.

FOR SALE - Complete Drake Station. TR7-DR7 transceiver, PS7, AUX7, NB7 1.8 SSB filter, Desk Mic, service manual, solid state, excellent condition - \$450.00. Extra options: MS7 external speaker, RV7 external VFO, SP75 processor. Complete Package - \$525.00 firm. Erv, WF4V. 6445 Juniper, Port Richey, FL 34668-5312. PH: 813-847-0658.

Loony Law: In South Bend, Indiana, "No monkeys kept as pets shall be permitted to smoke cigarettes."

1996 Florida Skip Calendars - Send an SASE to Skip Calendar, P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

FOR SALE - ICOM IC736AT, 160-6 meters, 100 watts. In new condition. Has general coverage transmit, power supply, keyer, microphone, antenna tuner. Still in warranty period -\$1550.00 shipped. HTX100 25 watt digital SSB 10 meter rig, nice - \$135.00. Kenwood 8-pole SSB crystal filter, YG455S1. Great for TS450S, TS850S, TS690S - \$85.00 for better quieter selective receiver. Two new National 811A's - \$20.00. Al West, W4SDC. 9229 El Paso Drive, Lakeworth, FL 33467-1007. PH: 407-641-8244.

Are American troops in Bosnia "peaceing" valiantly for their country?

FOR SALE - Yaesu FT-23R handheld with FIT-4 DTMF keypad, PA-6 Mobile DC-DC adapter/charger, FNB-10 Rechargeable battery pack, MH-12 speaker/microphone, operating manual - \$200.00. Ger, KC4EHT. 672 Indian River Drive, Melbourne, FL 32935. Ph: 1-800-421-3279.



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Florida Hamfest Update - December, 1995

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES	
- 1996 - Jan 6/7	Fort Myers	City of Palms Hamfest Fort Myers Shriners Mosque 2010 Hanson St, 1 bl east of US 41 Talk-in on 147.345 INFO: Dale, KD4UAD (813) 275-8360	Mar 9 Lake Worth FREE! At John Prince Park 6th Ave South and Congress Ave Talk-in on 146.870 Info: Marvin, KD2CK (407) 683-2930
Jan 13/14	Sarasota	Robards Sports Arena 3000 Fruitville Rd Talk-in on 146.910 & 444.925 INFO: Sam, KE4BXF (813) 922-4591	Mar 16/17 Ft. Walton Beach Okaloosa County Fairground 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd. Talk-in on 146.790 INFO: Bud (10-7 CST) (904) 243-2404
Jan 20	Crystal River	Crystal River Armory Talk-on on 146.955 INFO: Bill, KO4ZA (904) 382-5755	Mar 23 Stuart FREE! At Martin County Fairgrounds (New date and new location!) A1A south of Stuart Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Andy, W8BIX (407) 225-5122
Jan 21	Pinellas Park	Benefit Boy's & Girl's Club 7790 61st St North Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Mike, KC4TEX (813) 823-4251	Mar 23 Sebring National Guard Armory (New date!) on U.S. 27, 6 mi N of Sebring Talk-in: 147.270/145.330 INFO: George, KD4WDX (941) 382-4861
Feb 3/4	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925 INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR (305) 642-4139	Mar 30 Fanning Springs Livestock Pavillion (Fairgrounds) (New location!) SR 26 & US 19 Talk-in on ?? INFO: Glenda, K4KRU (904) 542-3033
Feb 10	Arcadia	Desoto County Fairgrounds (New Location!) US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.075 INFO: Doug, KN4YT (813) 494-5070	Apr 27/28 Gainesville Alachua County Fairgrounds SR 24 & SR 222 Talk-in on 146.820 INFO: Bill, K4RDP (904) 454-3105
Feb 10	Pensacola	Bayfront Municipile Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925 INFO: Bill, WA4YRN (904) 476-8537	Aug 3/4 Jacksonville Prime Osborne Convention Ctr South Lee & West Bay St Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Billy, N4UF (904) 350-9193
Feb 17/18	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465	***** HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN EARLY! PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND WHO TO CALL FOR INFO! Packet Address: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL Army MARS Call: AAT4RV Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St. Hobe Sound, FL 33455 E-Mail: bill.britton@jbs.com *****
Feb 24	Brooksville	Hernando County Fairgrounds Talk-in on 146.715 INFO: Glenn, AC4QH (904) 799-6755	*
Mar 2	Zephyrhills	At 3339 Allen Rd. Talk-in on 145.190 INFO: Phinney, WB4UMT (813) 788-1344	

OKEECHOBEE 1995

John Weatherley, AB4ET

The Okeechobee hamfest took place on Saturday 2 December at the showgrounds on SR441 as in previous years. The weather was near perfect which was just as well because the majority of the activity was outside.

My wife and I have always enjoyed the Okeechobee hamfest. We particularly like the small town atmosphere which characterizes these types of shows and its usually an enjoyable day amongst friendly people out in the country. We would often drive down on the Friday evening and stay at one of the lakeside motels and eat at one of the family restaurants in the area. The hamfest would be modest in size with a few tailgaters out in the cow pasture and with a little care you could take them all in without stepping in a cow patty!

Change has come to the Okeechobee hamfest. Sadly, it has grown in stature but not necessarily in quality. The first surprise was the cost of entry which is now six dollars. Six dollars for a cow shed affair seemed to be kind of steep when the Melbourne hamfest for example, charges five and pro-

vides over a hundred booths in air conditioned comfort with a good sampling of commercial traders and manufacturers and asphalt parking for the tail gaters.

From the amount of parking space used the number of visitors was noticeably larger than the previous visit we made as was the number of tailgaters. Entering the cowshed however was a big disappointment as over a third of the swap tables were empty. There were far more tailgaters outside than occupied tables inside. Had the weather been inclement the day would have been a disaster for the visitors in terms of value for money. I noted that some of the tailgaters started to pack up at 11 am.

What happened to the "famous" Okeechobee hamfest fish fry? The food offering has changed to an abysmally poor hamburger, a hot dog or a chicken breast sandwich. The chicken sandwich was quite acceptable but could have been improved with the provision of some lettuce and tomato. It might have helped the hamburger also.

I would suggest that OARC look very carefully at where their hamfest is going and what it is that attracts its visitors. I would

suggest that unlike the bigger affairs, the hourly and major prizes are not very important since they cannot expect to match the bigger boys. If they want to get into the big league then they will have to find different accomodation because for \$6 per head (thats a bunch of money for non ham XYL's coming along for the ride) they will need to provide an air-conditioned auditorium (its been darned cold in that cowshed some years) and provide some big prizes and maybe forums and functions to attract and keep the customers coming back.

Alternatively they should aim to keep the small town country atmosphere that we have always enjoyed. The inside table occupancy must be improved. Perhaps a review of the cost of the indoor tables needs to be made with maybe a modest charge for the tailgaters to encourage greater occupancy inside. This would provide insurance against the day when the tailgaters get rained out.

We will be looking with interest at what is offered next year to see if we will keep Okeechobee on our list of preferred hamfests.

-AB4ET

Florida Skip Bookstop

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Upcoming Eastern United States Hamfests & Computer Shows

DAY	HAMFEST	LOCATION	CONTACT	ADDR	CITY	PHONE
January						
6	Lakeway ARC Hamfest & Computer Show	Morristown, TN				
6/7	City of Palms Hamfest	Fort Myers, FL	Dale, KD4UAD			813-275-8360
13/14	17th Annual Hamfest & Computer Show	Sarasota, FL	Sam, KE4BXF			813-922-4591
13	Hamfest	Greenwood, SC				
13	SELARC Hamfest	Hammond, LA				
20	Hamfest	Crystal River, FL				
21	Frostfest	Richmond, VA	Bill, KO4ZA			904-382-5755
21	Hamfest	Pinellas Park, FL	Richmond Frostfest	PO Box 932	Chester, VA 23831	None
27	Hamfest	Greenville, AL	Mike, KC4TEX			813-823-4251
27	Hamfest	Greenville, AL				
27	TVARN Hamfest	Gallatin, TN				
28	Maryland Mobileers ARC	Odenton, MD	Bob Anderson	601 Elizabeth Rd.	Glen Burnie, MD 21061	410-766-3481
February						
3	Kerbella Hamfest	Knoxville, TN				
3/4	Tropical Hamboree	Miami, FL	Evelyn Gauzens	2780 NW 3rd. St.	Miami, FL 33125	305-642-4139
10	Hamfest	Charlestown	Jenny Myers	2630 Dellwood Ave.	N.Charleston, SC 29405-6814	803-747-2324
10	Hamfest	Pensacola, FL	Bill Behrends	1050 W. Carlton Rd.	Pensacola, FL 32534-1130	904-476-8537
10	Hamfest	Arcadia, FL	Doug, KN4YT			813-494-5070
10	Owensboro ARC Hamfest	Owensboro, KY				
17/18	Hamfest	Jackson, MS				
17/18	Orlando HamCation & Computer Show	Orlando, FL	Ken Christenson	P.O. Box 547811	Orlando, FL 32854-7811	407-961-2465
18	Briarpatch & Foothills ARCS	Elkin, NC	Dave Nicholson	PO Box 162	Cana, VA 24317-0317	703-755-4669
24	Hamfest	Dalton GA				
24/25	Hamfest	Cincinnati, OH				
24	Hernando City ARA 14th Annual Hamfest	Brooksville, FL	Glenn, AC4QH			
25	Hamfest	Fayetteville, WV	John Witt	135 Daniels St.	Fayetteville, WV 25840	904-799-6755
25	Vienna Wireless Society Winterfest	Vienna, VA				304-574-0532
March						
2	Black Warrior Swapfest	Tuscaloosa, AL				
2	Hamfest	Zephyrhills, FL	Kelly Bruce	PO Box 03171	Tuscaloosa, AL 35403	205-339-7882
2	Mammoth Cave ARC Ham/Swapfest	Cave City, KY	WB4UMT@WB4UMT			813-788-1344
8-10	Hamfest	Lafayette, LA				
9	Free Hamfest	Lake Worth, FL	Marvin, KD2CK			407-683-2930
9/10	Hamfest/Computer Show	Charlotte, NC	Charlotte Hamfest	PO Box 221136	Charlotte, NC 28222-1136	704-841-HAMS
16/17	Hamfest	Fort Walton Beach	Bud			904-243-2404
16/17	Hamfest	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Bud (10-7) CST			904-243-2404
16	Kennehoochee ARC Hamfest	Marietta, GA				
22/23	Hamfest	Columbus GA				
23	Hamfest	Sebring, FL	George, KD4WDX			941-382-4861



Happy New Year 1996



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